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I MAY HAVE TO PROSECUTE HIM, CLARK SAYS OF GARRISON

CHARLOTTESVILLE (AP).—U. S. Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark says he "might have to prosecute Jim Garrison," the controversial district attorney of New Orleans.

In an informal question-and-answer session after a speech last night to the University of Virginia's Student Legal Forum, Clark said Garrison "took a perfectly fine man, Clay Shaw, and ruined him just for personal aggrandizement."

Shaw, a prominent New Orleans businessman, is one of several persons being prosecuted by Garrison on charges of participating in a 1963 conspiracy to assassinate President John F. Kennedy.

Clark did not say what federal charge he contemplated lodging against Garrison.

In his speech, Clark said that as a lawyer he had seen few cases in court as well documented as the Warren Commission case against Lee Harvey Oswald.

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Clark Denies Prosecution of Garrison Hint

By ROBERT WALTERS
Star Staff Writer

A Justice Department spokesman denied yesterday that Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark had told a group of Virginia College students that he "might have to prosecute Jim Garrison," the controversial district attorney of New Orleans.

"The attorney general has not given any thought to a case against Garrison and the Justice Department has no plans for any such case," said Cliff Sessions, the department's chief public information officer.

But the reporter who wrote the story for the Charlottesville Daily Progress, Rey Barry, said yesterday, "There's no question he (Clark) said it."

Clark was reported to have said prosecution was possible in an informal question-and-answer session following a speech Friday night before the University of Virginia's Student Legal Forum in Charlottesville.

Quoted by Reporter

Barry quoted Clark as saying: "He (Garrison) took a perfectly fine man, Clay Shaw, and ruined him just for personal aggrandizement."

Barry said Clark also said: "Much as I hate to do it, I just might have to prosecute Jim Garrison."

Shaw, a prominent New Orleans businessman, is one of several persons being prosecuted by Garrison on charges of participating in a 1963 plot to assassinate President John F. Kennedy.

Barry, who covered the Clark speech for his newspaper, said the attorney general did not mention Garrison during his address, but said one question was asked about the subject during the formal question-and-answer period which followed.

When the formal program had concluded, about six or eight persons, including the reporter, moved onto the stage to talk with Clark, and it was then that Clark made his comments about Garrison, Barry said.

"All About Garrison"

"Clark was in no great hurry," Barry added. "We talked about 10 or 20 minutes, and it was almost all about the Garrison situation. . . . There's no question that he said it."

Clark was not available for comment yesterday, but Sessions said he had spoken with the attorney general several hours after the Charlottesville speech in an effort to determine what transpired.

"The attorney general did not recall exactly what he said during the discussion, but he does know that he did not say that," said Sessions, referring to the Charlottesville report, which was carried by both the local newspaper and the Associated Press.

"Clark discussed the matter hypothetically in response to a question, but he didn't draw that kind of a conclusion," Sessions added.

He said that a member of the audience had posed a hypothetical question, asking whether there would be federal prosecution of a state district attorney who had initiated unwarranted prosecution.

Clark replied: "Yes, if there were grounds for such a case," but did not discuss any specific case, Session said.

Rosewell Page III, president of the Student Law Forum, also denied hearing Clark make any specific comments about possible prosecution of Garrison. Page said he was standing next to the attorney general throughout the informal question period